United Nations S/2002/1401

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 December 2002
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 20 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 19 December 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the seizure by Kuwaiti authorities of an Iraqi tugboat, pontoon and related crew on 3 December 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Salman Ali**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

02-75489 (E) 261202 261202

Annex to the letter dated 20 December 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Authorities in the State of Kuwait seized Iraqi tugboat No. 51, which belongs to the Water Transport Company of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, together with its crew, while it was sailing in Iraqi territorial waters towing pontoon No. 32, which was empty. The tugboat had left the Iraqi port of Faw on 3 December 2002 heading for the port of Khawr al-Zubayr, where it was expected to arrive on 5 December 2002. The crew was composed of four Iraqi seamen, as follows:

1. Abd al-Karim Ali Abd al-Muhsin;

2. Husayn Ali Hafiz;

3. Ma'n Majid Abbas;

4. Riyad Jabbar Muhammad Yunus.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq holds the Government of the State of Kuwait responsible for preserving the safety of the four detained Iraqi nationals and also holds it fully responsible under the law for this act, which constitutes a breach of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Security Council resolutions adopted under the item entitled "The situation between Iraq and Kuwait", which reaffirmed the commitment of all States Members of the United Nations to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq, and the agreement reached by the two countries within the framework of the Beirut Arab Summit, in March 2002.

We exhort you to intervene in order to ensure the safety of the detained Iraqi crew members and to urge the authorities of the State of Kuwait to release them and return the tugboat and pontoon immediately.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq